OH YEAH, MIKA...
TOMORROW IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, ISN'T IT?
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
UM...
A JOB?
SHE DIDN'T HAVE A PENNY TO HER NAME.

# ワンルームシックノーパンツ

one room [sick-chic] no pants

## CHAPTER 1:
## A GROUP OF POOR BANDMATES

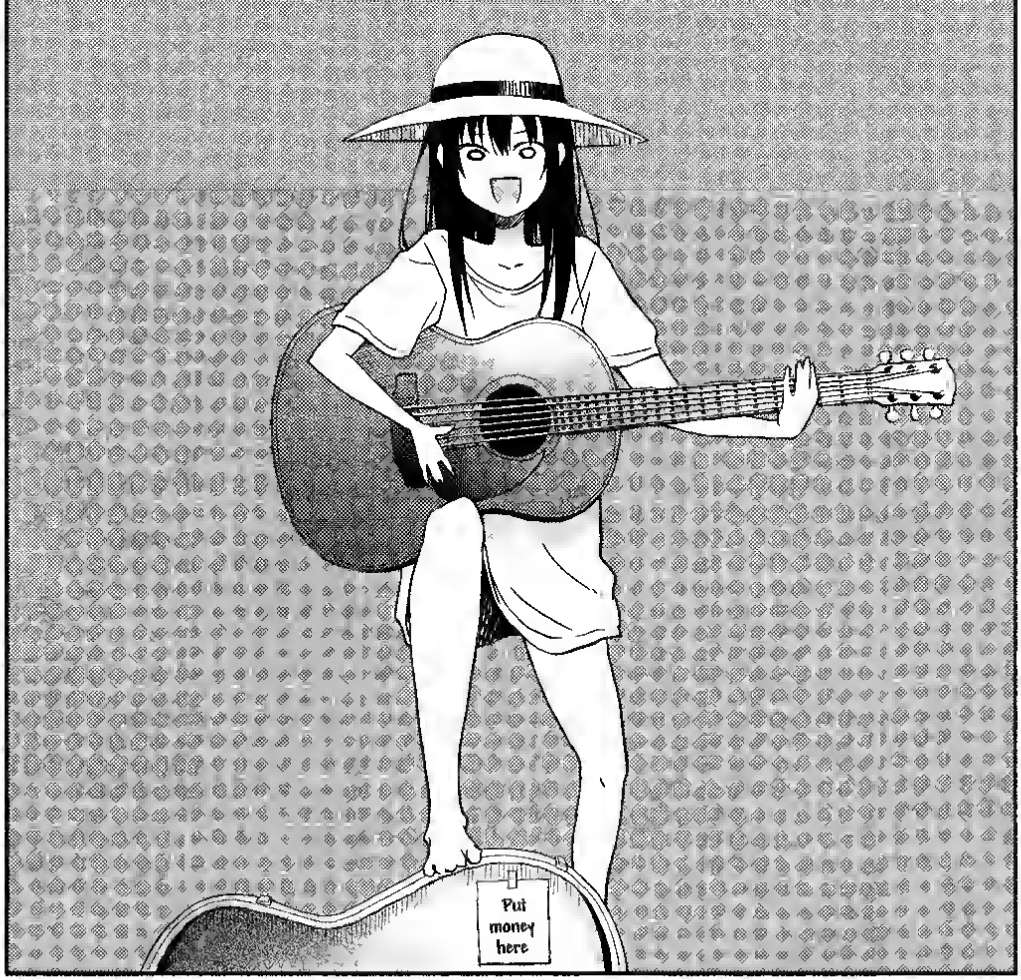
**Sentimental Vector** *(Taguchi Shouichi & Harukawa Misaki)*

THESE FOUR GIRLS ARE LIVING TOGETHER HERE AS A BAND.
BUILT 30 YEARS AGO,
130 FT², ONE ROOM, NO BATH.
This is the story of a girl named "Mika" living at the bottom of society and the people around her.
RICE,
I WISH I HAD SOME RICE TO EAT.
MIKA (GUITAR)
WE LET YOU OFF THE HOOK FOR YOUR PART OF THE RENT THIS MONTH BECAUSE IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY,
AND YOU STILL DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY?
NEKO (BASS)
NOPE!
I GOT FIRED, SO I'M BROKE!
ALL I HAVE LEFT IS THE BAND!!

IF ONLY YOU COULD EAT MUSIC AND FILL UP THAT WAY.
LET'S SAY SHE COULD...
SUMIRE (DRUMS)
SHEENA (VOCALS AND GUITAR)

WITH YOUR JANGLY GUITAR ROCK AND YOUR CUTESY POP MUSIC...
YOU ALL,
HOW CAN YOU EVEN LISTEN TO THAT STUFF?
HER FAVORITE GENRE IS METAL, RIGHT?
Ooo, THAT WOULD BE PRETTY HEAVY ON YOUR STOMACH.
RUDE!
MENTAL IMAGE

国産直輸送
YOU KNOW,
WHAT ABOUT EARNING SOME MONEY WITH YOUR MUSIC?
MIKA, YOU'RE A GUITARIST,
SHUT UP!
HAVE YOUR BRAINS BEEN SOAKING IN SYRUP?!
SOREDA!!
(That's it!!)
GO PLAY YOUR ACOUSTIC GUITAR AND SING AROUND THE TRAIN STATION!
YEAH!
LIKE BEING A STREET MUSICIAN!
チキーン
……


Put money here

HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA !!!!!!
A SPITTING IMAGE!
LIAR!
NO STREET PERFORMER LOOKS LIKE THAT!
LET'S NOT FORGET TO WEAR PANTIES, MIKA.

QUIET, PLEASE.
ALLOW ME TO PLAY A SONG.
THE NAME OF THE SONG IS...
パチ
わ
パチ
パチ

METALLICA'S
MASTER OF PUPPETS!

Obey Your Master!!

**Master of Puppets**

The title song to the 3rd album released by the influential metal band "Metallica", who formed in 1981.
A song so popular that countless musicians over the years have done covers of it.
The album is called "Metal Master" in Japan.
Not a song that street musicians typically play.

MASTER OF PUPPETS
Words & Music by James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich, Cliff Burton and Kirk Hammett
©1985 CREEPING DEATH MUSIC
Permiss on granted by Consortium Music Publishing Japan Ltd
Authorized for sale only in Japan
JASRAC出 1402272-401

MASTER!!

NO ONE ASKED YOU TO SHOW OFF HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT CHANGING RHYTHM!!

THAT'S FUCKING METAL!

QUIT STRUMMING THE RIFF WITH YOUR ACOUSTIC GUITAR!

LISTEN HERE,
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO EARN MONEY, YOU GOTTA CATER TO YOUR AUDIENCE.
It's a business...
HOW ABOUT THIS...
You're Talking about J-POP, aren't ya?!
I DON'T KNOW ANY CHO-RDS.
PLAY SOME EMOTIONAL CHORDS WHILE SINGING STUFF LIKE "I LOVE YOU" AND "I WISH I COULD SEE YOU RIGHT NOW".
WHAT?! NO WAY!!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A GUITARIST?!
WHAT-EVER!

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN SAITAMA, THE CITY OF ROCK!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? 5TH AVENUE, HUH?!
TO PLAY GUITAR, ALL YOU NEED IS A STRONG LIBIDO AND A BURNING PATHOS!!

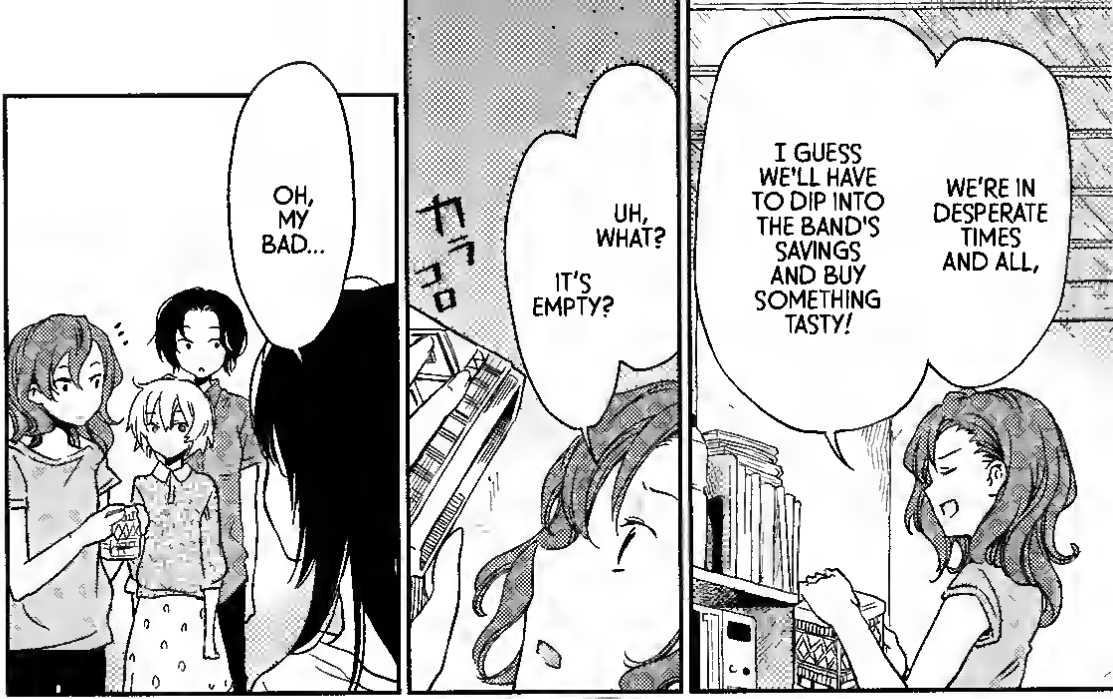
mama
ドサァ
MIKA!!
HUH?

YES SHE IS!
OH NO, SHE'S NOT BREATHING.
IS... IS SHE DEAD?!

THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU WENT CRAZY ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.
I SWEAR, THIS GIRL...

OOPS...
※
I DIDN'T HAVE THE ENERGY LEFT,
TO DO ALL THAT.

WAIT, MAYBE, MEAT?!
RICE!
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED, ALRIGHT?
WHAT IF... WE THROW A BIRTHDAY PARTY?
VEG-GIES!
MEAT!
MEAT!
SHE DOESN'T LOOK ANYWHERE CLOSE TO DYING, THOUGH.
IF SHE DIES TODAY, THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE ANYWAY.


WE'RE IN DESPERATE TIMES AND ALL,
I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO DIP INTO THE BAND'S SAVINGS AND BUY SOMETHING TASTY!
UH, WHAT?
IT'S EMPTY?
カラ
コロ
OH, MY BAD...

Kicked out of the Band.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I NEED TO SAY IT?
THE CHARACTERS IN YOUR NOVELS ARE TOO BORING.
REJECTED!
Haha...
JUST LIKE THEIR AUTHOR.
My name is Kusada Haruka,
I'm a third-rate novelist.
While I have published one novel before,
I can't ever seem to get another one done.
So I find myself walking home again without anything to show for it today.
I'M HOME!
HA...
AS IF ANYONE IS HERE TO RESPOND...

## Chapter 2 - I am Mika. I currently have no home.

MIKA!
WHY YOU LITTLE !!
HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?!
I BROKE THE LOCK.
WHAT ARE YOU, A BURGLAR?!
YOU'RE LIVING IN LUXURY HERE.
YOU HAVE SO MUCH RICE.
AH! SON OF A...
YOU COOKED IT ALL!

GIVE ME A BREAK!
DID YOU COME TO LEECH OFF OF ME SOME MORE?
I'm not exactly rich, you know?
I GET THAT IT TAKES MONEY TO BE IN A BAND, BUT...
THE BAND...

I DON'T HAVE ONE ANYMORE!
AGH!
THE ONLY THING I HAVE LEFT, IS THIS.
PEP
This girl, Mika,
May be a worthless excuse of a person,
But she wasn't always like that.

WANNA GO OUT DRINKING?
HUH?
YEAH, SURE.
HEY, KUSADA!
At least, She wasn't like that in college.
KU-SADA!
YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER.
THE MORE PEOPLE, THE LESS EACH OF US HAS TO PAY.
Haruaki Story Contest Guidelines
YOU'LL COME TOO, RIGHT, MIKA?
EVERY-ONE COME!
IT'LL BE FUN!
Kusada says he's coming!

NO...
I...
EH?
COME ON, YOU KNOW YOU WANNA!
CHEERS!
WHAT, REALLY?
YOU DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
WHY DON'T YOU GET ONE?
EH, I DON'T REALLY WANT ONE.

LIAR.
I GET IT, YOU'RE SCARED, RIGHT?
WHY?
SINCE YOU'RE SO CUTE, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
OH, YEAH, YEAH, I CAN'T BLAME YOU.
SO TRUE, SO TRUE!
WHAT ARE YOU GIRLS TALKING ABOUT OVER HERE?
HOW GUYS LIKE YOU AREN'T RIGHT FOR MIKA!
AW!
COME ON, AM I THAT MUCH OF A PLAYER?
Yeah you are, hahahaha!
WHAT DO YA SAY, MIKA?
AM I LIKE THAT?
WHAT? UH...
YOU'RE SCARING HER!
AWW MAN, COME ON!
GO AWAY!
.....

AH.
Sup.
Hi.
……
?

TH...
THANKS.
HERE.
YEAH,
YOU, UH,
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE GOT IT ROUGH.
HM?
THEM TREATING YOU LIKE A MASCOT.
OH,
YEAH, I GUESS.
HMPH.
CONVER-SATIONS WHERE EVERYONE IS JUST FOLLOWING THE MOOD AND GETTING EXCITED OVER EVERY LITTLE THING.
YOU COULD LOOK AT IT LIKE THAT'S HOW MUCH THEY ALL LIKE YOU.
THEY'RE STUPID IF YOU ASK ME.

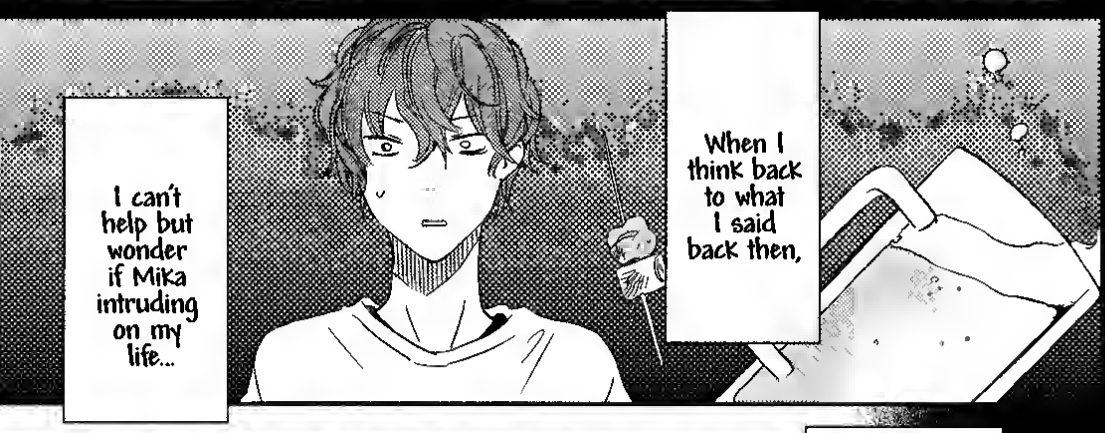
I WANT TO LIVE A MORE...
ROCK AND ROLL SORT OF LIFE
WHAT?
WHAT DOES THAT ACTUALLY MEAN?
TO STAND ALONE,
AND GO YOUR OWN WAY,
AVOIDING ANY UNNECESSARY RELATIONSHIPS.
OH, I SEE...
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ALWAYS BY YOURSELF?
THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT...
I MEAN, ROCK AND ROLL IS LIKE...

KHOW WHAT I MEAH?!
IT'S HOT-BLOO-DED!
THE SPIRIT AHD GUTS TO KILL 'EM WITH SOUHD!
.....
PHEW, I HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT CONVERSATION LIKE THIS IN A LONG TIME.
GOOD TO HEAR.
HEY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
YOU DON'T KNOW? WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS...
IS THAT SO?
I'M KUSADA HARUKA.
KUSADA? OH.
ALL THESE PEOPLE WHO GO ALONG WITH POINTLESS SMALL TALK LIKE,
"I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!"
YEAH, RIGHT! I DON'T KNOW AT ALL, ASSHOLE!!
I'M NOT LIKE THOSE FUCKING IDIOTS!

スポーン
PPPFFT!
"TO WALK THE SAME PATH TOGETHER AND SEE THE SAME SCENERY. THAT'S THE LIFE I WANT TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH NEKO-SAN."
THAT KUSADA?
あ、ついた
NEKO AND I WERE IN THE SAME BAND.
NEKO -SAN, YOU'RE TOO LOOSE -LIPPED!
Neko (Bass)
PRETTY LAME THING TO SAY FOR SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO BE A WRITER.
WHY DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?!
STILL, IS THAT REALLY SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SAY TO MY FACE?
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
YOU'RE MORE TALKATIVE THAN I THOUGHT, AREN'T YOU?
IS THIS YOUR TRUE SELF?
HUH?
OH, UH...
WELL...

YOU WANT TO BE ROCK AND ROLL, RIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU GETTING FLUSTERED?
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT.
IN FACT, YOU'D BE BETTER OFF ACTING THAT WAY ALL THE TIME.
YOUR SMUG LOOK PISSES ME OFF.
WHA?!
TELLING ME TO BE ROCK AND ROLL.
WHAT ARE YOU, THE MAIN CHAR-ACTER?
THAT LINE WAS CLICHE, SO CLICHE!
ぐさ
ぐさ
TCH.
I wish I hadn't said anything.

BUT...
THANKS.
バタン


When I think back to what I said back then,
I can't help but wonder if Mika intruding on my life...

Was in some sense my own fault...
TIME FOR WORK.
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WRITE ABOUT.
IF ONLY I HAD A GOOD SUBJECT.
AH!

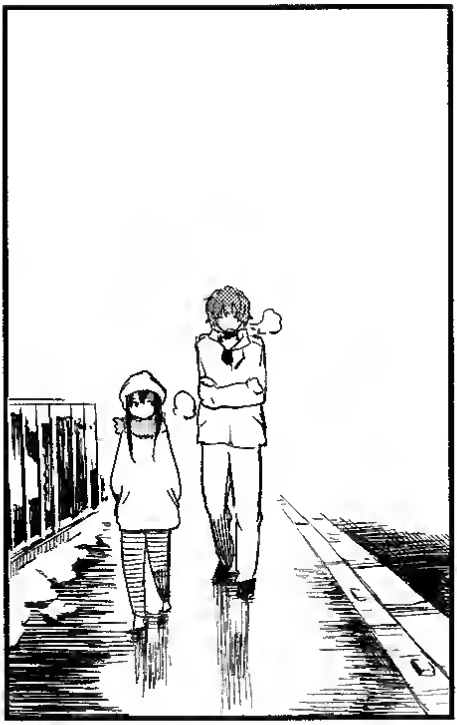
YOU'VE FINALLY GOT A DECENT CHARACTER.
RE...
REALLY?!
I SEE, I SEE.
THIS GIRL HAS AN INTERESTING PERSONALITY.
2F
Even people who are true human failures,
Will have times when they rise to the occasion and accomplish...
STILL...
Nothing.
Where are you going with this character?
REJECTED.

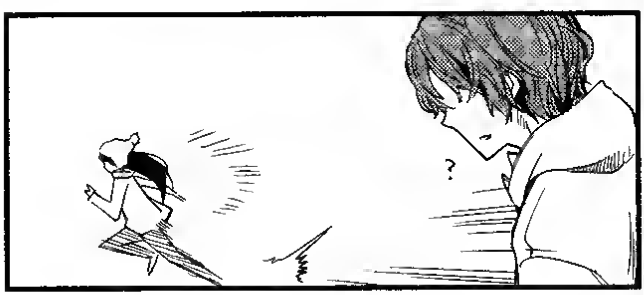
AT THE END OF THE LONG TUNNEL KNOWN AS "THE DEADLINE", THERE IS A WORLD FILLED WITH SNOW.

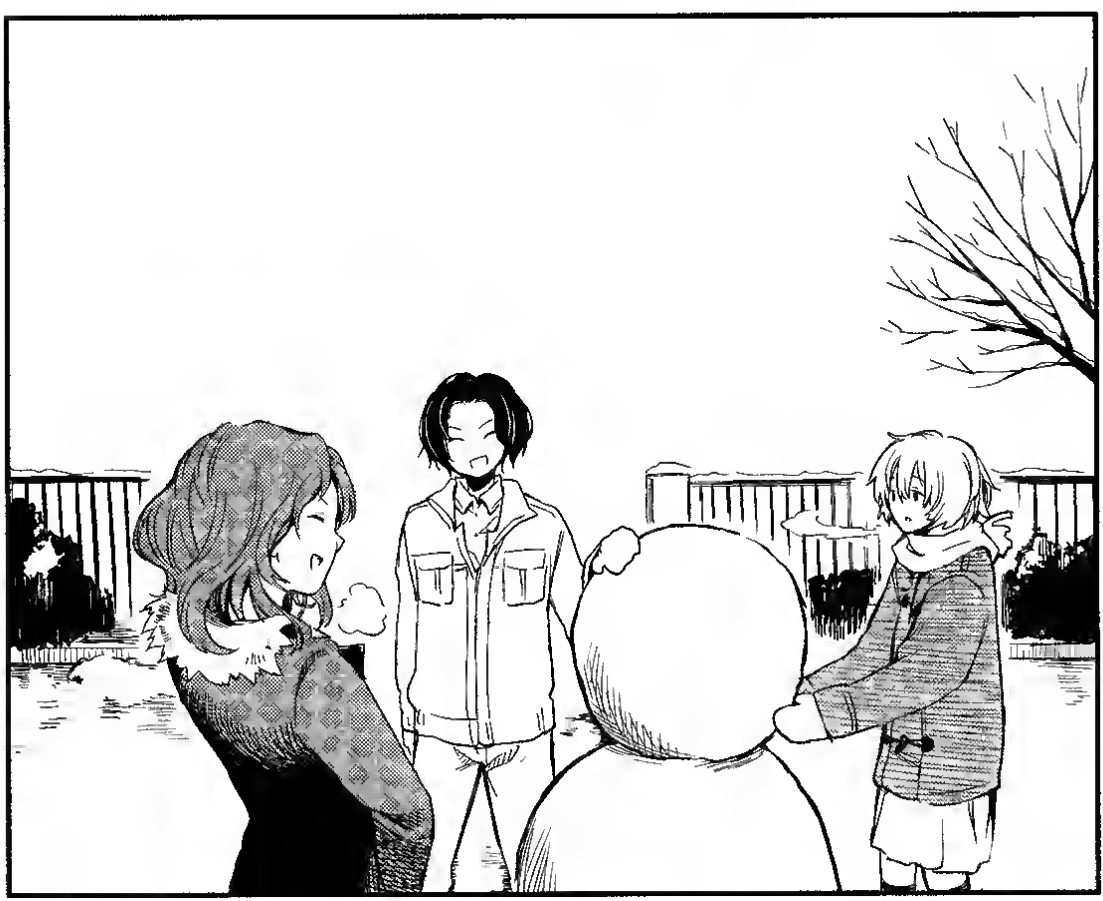
THE MANUSCRIPT TURNED WHITE.

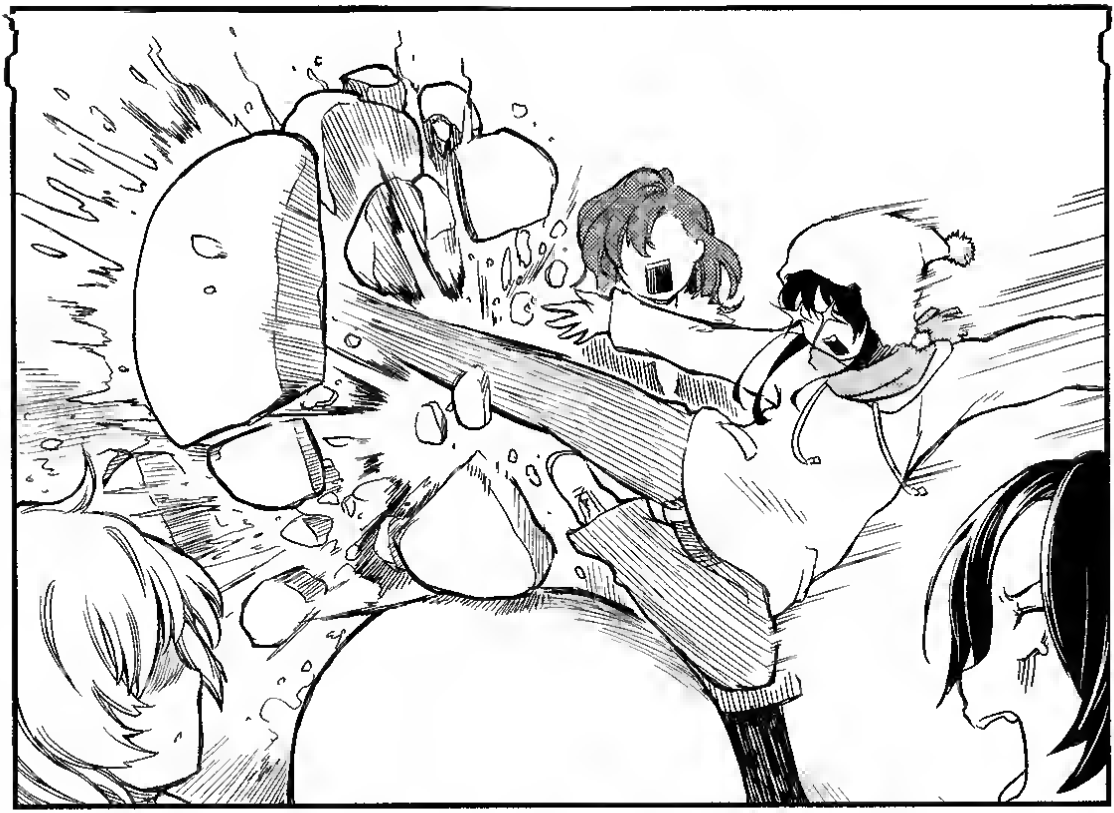
IT'S SNOWING!

WHOA, HOLD IT.
ARE YOU MY MOM?!
WHAT?
There we go...







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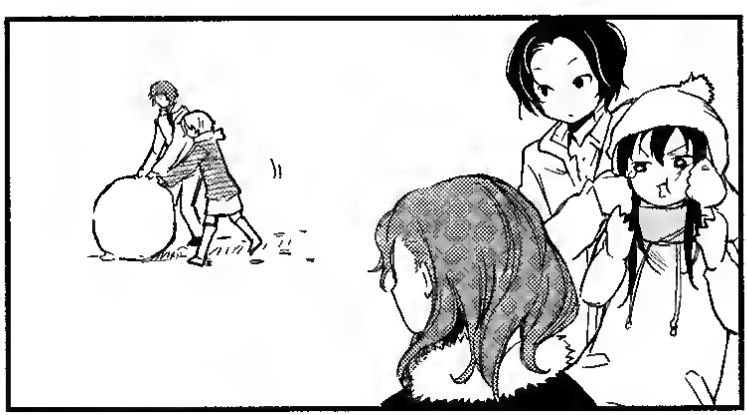
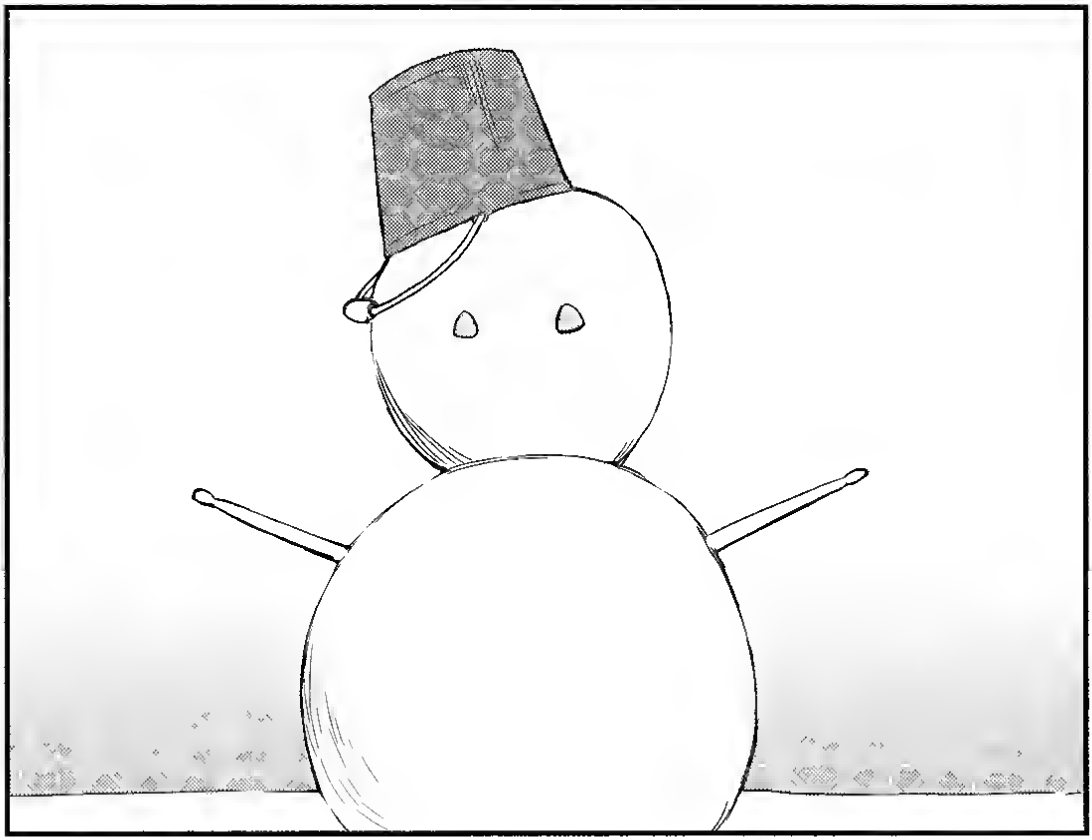
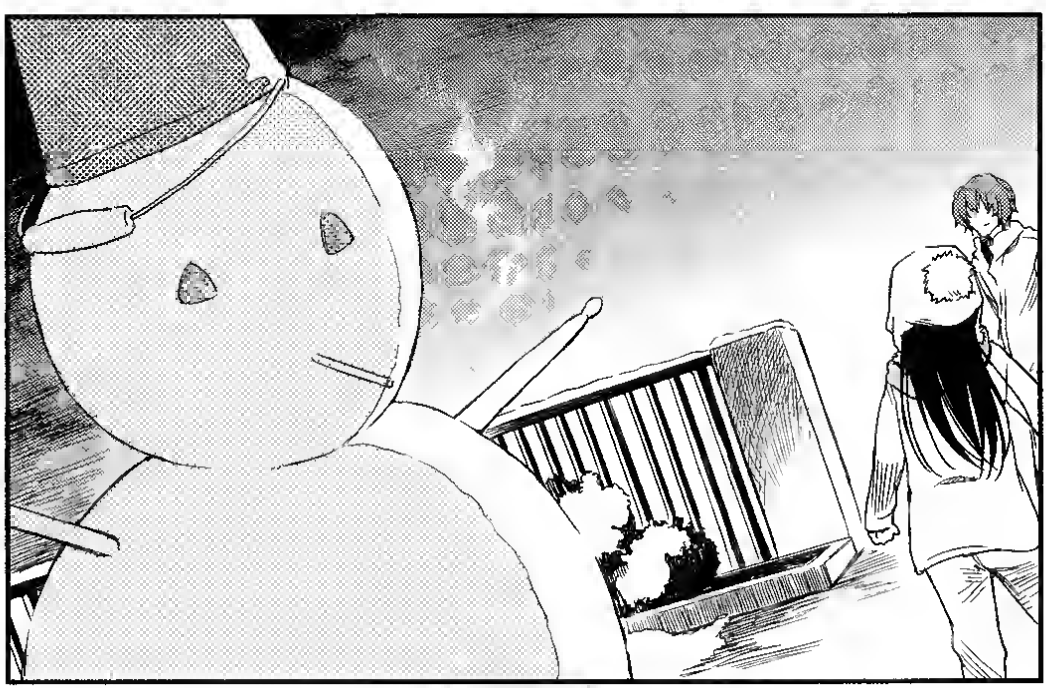
Seriously...
WHAT WAS THAT?!
COM HERE
ASSHOLE!
WAAA
HOW COULD YOU?!
JERK!!



Guitar pick



IT'S DARK!
AND COLD!
WE SHOULD HEAD HOME, TOO.



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